

✓OGC SUBJECT
Records

24 AUG 1973

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger
Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for forwarding to me your report on automated personal data systems entitled Records, Computers, and the Rights of Citizens. The report faces a fundamental issue of obvious importance and deep concern to both public and private organizations.

In the body of the report, in connection with personal-data record-keeping systems, a distinction is made between administrative systems and statistical reporting and research. A further distinction is made as to that portion of the administrative records which is termed "intelligence records." The report notes that intelligence records which are kept as a basis for determining suitability of employment, clearance for access to classified national security information, and similar purposes may have their utility weakened if all the safeguard requirements were applied to all types of intelligence records. This is an area in which this Agency would be particularly concerned, and we agree that the process of considering exceptions for intelligence systems would entail a careful review of existing policy, laws, and practices covering the creation, maintenance, and use of intelligence records about individuals. We believe it essential that this Agency and others with similar functions participate in any such review. Since the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is now developing legislation and regulations concerning systems within the reach

of the Department's authority, it is apparent that the overall review of intelligence records will take place in a broader forum. I agree, however, that the report is a useful guide for deliberation and action on the important public policy issues it addresses.

Sincerely,

/s/ Vernon A. Walters

Vernon A. Walters
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

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